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Approved For Release 2005/06/30 : CIA-RDP79M00467A001700090004-1

cancel
17 August 1956

The Honorable Reuben B. Robertson, Jr.
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Reuben:

I have given very careful consideration to your letter of August 2, 1956, supplementing your letter of May 4, 1956, and your letter of November 4, 1955 to Nelson A. Rockefeller, all relating to the question of staff coordination within the Department of Defense for projects under NSC 5412. Your desire to have adequate information to permit you to carry out your duties as Defense member of the informal committee set up under NSC 5412, is thoroughly understood. I wish to do everything I can to meet your needs in this regard.

With regard to the nature of the responsibility assumed by the Department of Defense and State, and the President's representative in their review of these NSC 5412 projects, it is my understanding of the NSC Directive that the Central Intelligence Agency assumes primary responsibility for the staffing and carrying out of particular projects under NSC 5412/1 and that the members of the reviewing committee pass upon the conformity of the particular project with general Foreign policy or Defense policy, as the case may be. Such approval on the part of the Department of Defense member, for example, would not involve the responsibility for any logistics support except such as might be specifically requested of you and approved by you. Of course I appreciate that you would wish to have staff coordination of this phase of any project submitted for approval.

It is not usual to build up any records in either Defense or State with respect to 5412 projects. Records of the particular approvals are prepared here in sanitized form and a copy made available to your office. The more detailed presentation on which the approval has been sought by us will be kept on file here and available to you at any time you may wish.

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Your letters clearly indicate that you appreciate the extreme sensitivity of these operations and I would fully understand it if upon presentation of a particular project you would wish additional time for consideration of your position, and I would conform my procedure accordingly. Certainly I would not feel that either the Department of Defense or State or Mr. Jackson's office could be held responsible for any of the technical details in connection with the staffing out or execution of a project, but solely as I indicated above, for the consistency of the general project with the overall policies of the respective departments.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

AWD/ji

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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